



1534

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yijia Bao, *et al.*

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Title: TREATMENT OF SUBSTRATES
FOR IMMOBILIZING
BIOMOLECULES

Group Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Ethan C. Whisenant

RESPONSECommissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action dated May 6, 2003, designated as Paper No. 0503 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-7, and 19-23, which are withdrawn without prejudice.

Please cancel claims 8-18 and replace with the following claims 24-39:

24. A method for reducing auto-fluorescence on a substrate, the method comprising:
providing a substrate with at least a first surface, said first surface being either with or without either a biological or a synthetic molecule immobilized thereon, or having either a coated or uncoated surface with a residual fluorescence; and treating at least a portion of the first surface of the substrate with a reducing agent for longer than about 5 minutes to reduce auto-fluorescence on the substrate.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the reducing agent includes hydrogen.
26. The method of claim 24, wherein the reducing agent includes a hydride.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the reducing agent includes a borohydride.